



# Polk County Observer

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## RESOURCES OF DALLAS

### COUNTY SEAT OF POLK COUNTY IN WEALTHY DISTRICT

#### A Few of the Advantages Presented by Dallas and Surrounding Country.

The following was written for the Oregonian by its staff correspondent Addison Bennett:

Polk is not a large county, geographically speaking, compared with other Oregon counties. It has an area of 750 square miles. If Oregon was divided into counties of the same size we would have 124 of them, in place of the 33 we have. On the other hand, if all of our lands were as thickly populated as is that of Polk County, we would have a population of about 1,860,000, in place of the 750,000 we have, or had in 1910.

When it comes to prosperity I think it is spread out over Polk county as thickly as in any other portion of the state. The average assessed wealth, not actual, but assessed wealth, of Polk people is about \$1,000, which the best informed say gives an average wealth for each family of \$5,000. If that is not a good showing then tell me what constitutes real prosperity.

Dallas is the county seat of Polk, the metropolis of Polk so far as finances and population are concerned. Dallas gained the county seat permanently after a most beautiful scrap with Independence, lasting nearly 40 years. There was no bloodshed, no knocking down and dragging out, but little animosity—just a truly wonderful and lovely, but long-drawn-out scrap.

#### Independence Fair, Brave.

In speaking of the past Cary Hayter, who for more than 20 years ran a newspaper here at Dallas, was forced to say that the Independence people are the best and bravest lot of citizens, and also the fairest, that any county ever possessed. "We only won in the end by our geographical position," continued Carey. By the way, Carey says while in the newspaper business, running the Dallas Observer, which was one of the best of Oregon's country papers, he usually kept only about two jumps ahead of the Sheriff, financially speaking. A couple of years ago he sold his paper and went into the book and stationery business here and has one of the nicest stocks and nearest stores in all Oregon—and is at least 100 jumps ahead of the Sheriff. And every one of Carey's hosts of friends is glad that fortune is smiling on him.

If you want to know why the names Dallas and Polk, just take up some political history and trace up the career of James K. Polk and his team-mate, Dallas. Then you will know the why; also the when.

Polk County extends from the Willamette on the east to the crest of the Coast Range on the west, from Yamhill on the north to Benton on the south. Of the 476,704 acres of land in the county 281,704 acres are under cultivation. Of the remaining area much is timbered. And in this timber belt, along the Coast Range, there is a wealth which puts most of the mining sections of the world out of the running. And when the mine is worked out there is but a trifling value left; the forests of Polk along the mountainsides will re-produce themselves continually until the end of time if proper methods are pursued.

#### Wealth of Polk Increases.

Where is the best mohair district in the United States? In Polk. Where are raised the finest Angora goats to produce this mohair? In Polk. Where are the greatest hop fields in the country? In Polk. Where is the finest prune district in the Northwest? In Polk. Where do they raise as fine cherries, apples, English walnuts, pears, peaches, strawberries, loganberries, raspberries and all other fruits as are produced in the country? In Polk.

I might go on and "poke" such facts at the reader all day—and then not tell all of the truth. The horses, mules, sheep and thoroughbred livestock of all kinds raised in Polk have taken blue ribbons enough to start a ribbon factory of vast dimensions. And every year Polk's livestock is increasing in numbers and in quality. You see the Polk County agriculturalists and livestock breeders are as progressive as any in America. They are universally progressive. I do not

speak in a Rooseveltian vein. I mean they are ever striving to breed better stock and more of it. As it is now people send from all over the world for Polk's Angoras, from far and wide for Polk's Jerseys and Holsteins and Guernseys from East and West, north and south, for Polk's Lincoln and other high-class sheep.

"What is the name of that young river?" is the gist of a question strangers ask as they first come down to Dallas and note the fine stream near which the great Willamette Valley Lumber Co. has its large sawmill. This company employs 200 men at the mill and in the logging camps.

"That," will be the answer, "is the Lackre-all." Or that is what it will sound like to you. They mean the Lackre-all. Or that is what it Anglicized, same as the cowboys Anglicized a certain creek in Eastern Colorado. It was named La Purgatoire. The cowboys changed it to Fickett, which was just as euphonic and more suggestive of a cow country.

#### Cherries Also Come From Polk.

Many things hereabouts are La Creole. The social club of the town is thus named and more than likely a lot of babies. Taking the world, of course, in its Anglicized form. This creek flows into the Willamette near Salem. And the Polk County people aver that in the territory in Polk County near where this stream debouches into the larger stream the bulk and the best of the "Salem" cherries are grown! Well, Polk swipes a lot of hops from Marion, perhaps more than enough to square the cherry business.

But about that mill. It has been running for ten years, ever since it was erected, and never a shutdown. No matter what the lumber market is—this mill runs steadily on and on. There are many acres of lumber piled near the mill now, they are running on a little order of 1,000,000 feet for the great Pullman Company at present. This mill is largely owned in Portland, Messrs. Gerlinger, Spaulding, Leadbetter and Pittcock being the principal owners. It cuts about 1,000,000 feet a week the year round. The Dallas people say it has been a great factor in the prosperity of the town.

But Dallas is not a town; it is a fine little city, with about 3,000 people. It has fine and well-paved streets and cement walks, and will put down another mile of paving and two miles of walks and curbs next Spring. The buildings, while none of them are over three stories in height, will compare favorably with those of any city in the Northwest. The courthouse, on a beautiful lawn 400 feet square, right in the heart of town, is one of the splendid buildings of Oregon. It is built of dark-colored native stone and does not show up well in a photograph or cut. But I am sure there is no other courthouse, city hall or other municipal building in Oregon of greater beauty.

#### Papers and Hotels Good.

Dallas has two good newspapers. There is the semi-weekly Observer, owned and managed by Gerald Volk and J. L. Parcel, and the Weekly Itemizer, owned and managed by V. P. Fiske. They are both good, newsy papers, and each has practically a metropolitan office.

And here are two good hotels, the Gail and the New Scott. I happened in at the Gail and the proprietor, Henry Serr, has almost fallen over himself to see that I got what I wanted when I wanted it. But he looked after all the other guests just as well as he did after me. The evening I arrived there were nearly 50 guests in the dining room for dinner. In fact, the house is crowded to the limit. The service speaking now of the table, is enough to please anybody, and the prices are reasonable.

The New Scott is run by George E. Corson. It is a splendid house, well, even handsomely, furnished, and those who patronize the hotel say it is a good place.

Dallas National and the Dallas City, the latter being a state bank. The former has capital and surplus of \$35,588 and deposits of \$282,562; the latter has capital and surplus of \$36,000 and deposits of \$325,000. F. J. Craven is cashier of the Dallas City and Eugene Hayter of the Dallas National. And who are the presidents? Why, Ralph E. Williams is president of both of them—if there were other banks here he would probably be president of them also. You will remember Ralph as the Republican National Committeeman, the boss friend (?) of Jonathan Bourne! But Ralph is no longer in politics. He got married and reformed, and is bringing up a boy to take up the bank presidencies as Ralph, senior, lays them down.

#### High School Costs \$50,000.

Dallas has a new \$50,000 High School building, as fine grammar school buildings as any city of its size, a splendid gravity water system, a large electric light and power plant, the Southern Pacific Company has

large repair shops here, employing about 50 men the year round. There are seven churches, belonging to the Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, United Evangelicals, Methodist Episcopal, Christians, and Adventists. Some of these congregations have handsome places of worship. The Townsend Creamery Company has a branch here, a cannery company is being organized to build a plant in the Spring, a large flouring mill runs steadily, one of the largest pruning plants on the Coast runs with about 150 employees during the prune season and—to be continued in our next!

To get here and get away when you feel like it the Southern Pacific has as good a train service as any town could desire. There are two trains a day north and south on the Southern Pacific West Side lines and five trains each day to and from Salem—eight trains a day to and from Salem.

Now I am about half through—but my space run out! With a word to incoming settlers and I will close; In looking over Oregon for a location on the land or in a town, do not miss a trip to Polk, particularly to Dallas. If you can't come soon write to the Commercial Club, M. V. Fuller, president; Walter L. Tooez, secretary. This club has done noble work for the city and county under the direction of its officers and the hard work of Walter—and will do more. They are not sending out expensive literature, but condensed facts.

#### New Road Supervisors.

The County Court yesterday made the following appointments for road supervisors for Polk County for the coming year.

District No. 1. Alonzo Thorp.  
District No. 2. Hank Darton.  
District No. 3. D. L. Key.  
District No. 4. A. N. Cochran.  
District No. 5. Marion Putnam.  
District No. 6. F. E. Vallier.  
District No. 7. Chas. Durrell.  
District No. 8. Jacob Smith.  
District No. 9. Newt Prather.  
District No. 10. N. F. Stump.  
District No. 11. C. S. Calkins.  
District No. 12. R. R. Riggs.  
District No. 13. T. J. Alsip.  
District No. 14. J. W. Finn.  
District No. 15. Walter Bird.  
District No. 16. J. J. Underwood.  
District No. 17. James Middleton.  
District No. 18. Frank Wilson.  
District No. 19. Ben Womer.  
District No. 20. L. J. Bursell.  
District No. 21. A. Sampson.  
District No. 22. T. J. Merrick.

#### S. P. Will Make Changes.

According to reports from Portland there will be several changes in regard to the trains to Portland, commencing next Sunday, Trains No. 76 and 77 instead of running from Dallas to Portland will extend south to Monmouth and Airline and still be operated as a steam train and use the Jefferson St. Depot, Portland as the terminus. The train from Corvallis that Dallas passengers transfer at Gerlinger will transfer its passengers at Whiteson to the Electric and in returning will do likewise. That is trains No. 1 and 2. These trains leave Portland at 7.15 in the morning and operated on the Fourth street line and the return train No. 2 left Gerlinger at 2.27 p. m.

Trains No. 74 and 75 from Corvallis to Portland will still use steam and land its passengers at the Jefferson St. depot.

These trains are the ones that Dallas passengers transfer at Gerlinger at 7.19 a. m. and returning transfer at the same place at 7.15 p. m.

#### Presbyterian Special Services.

Dr. A. L. Hutchison, D. D., of Portland is in charge of a special series of meetings at the Presbyterian church, Monday evening he delivered the first sermon to a good audience on the subject "Power."

The Doctor is an able bible student and talks with a freedom that indicates that he has prepared himself well for his work. He preaches the bible and proves his statements by quotations, giving his listeners something to think about.

The solo given by Rev. Mitchell was appreciated by the congregation.

These services will be given every night and an invitation has been given all to attend.

#### Married.

Miss Edith Harris and Mr. Perval C. Meyer of Falls City, were united in marriage at the home of Rev. Lee Sadler who officiated in the ceremony at Falls City, Sunday, January 11th.

#### Good Work Remembered.

County Superintendent Seymour last week received a very nice letter of thanks from the State Immigration Commission, expressing their gratitude for the very efficient help rendered by him in collecting exhibits from this county for the Chicago Land Show. The letter was signed by the full Commission.



THE COURT HAS DECLARED HARRY K. THAW SANE

The Federal Court Commission of New Hampshire has rendered the decision that Harry K. Thaw is now sane and that his release on bail would not endanger public safety.

#### Unusual Operation at Dallas Hospital.

Dr. Bollman, assisted by the local fraternity performed a very serious operation known as caesarian section, upon Mrs. Jesse Barham at the Dallas Hospital last Friday. This lady was seized with puerperal convulsions about noon Friday and it was found necessary to perform the operation at once to save her life, so she was rushed to the hospital and operated on as soon as possible. This is the first operation of this kind ever performed in Dallas, and so rare an operation that it is seldom done outside of the large maternity hospitals of the cities. Her nurse, Miss Thompson, assistant superintendent of the Salem Hospital, tells us that she has never known of but one case of this kind in Salem, in which case both mother and child lost their lives. There has not been perhaps over fifty of such operations in the whole state.

Both mother and child are doing well, the mother out of danger and the little three pound infant doing its part to make things lively.

Dallas has some of the best surgeons of the state and people are finding it out which is the reason of the need for increased hospital facilities here.

#### Polk County Fruit Growers.

The Polk County Fruit Growers' Association held their third annual meeting at the court house in Dallas, Saturday afternoon.

The meeting was one of the best ever held, the attendance being large and the interest good.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Harry Woods, President; Harry Butz, Vice-President; H. G. Campbell, Secretary and N. L. Guy, Treasurer. Directors: John Parke, Perrydale; M. M. Harvey, Monmouth; H. C. Eakin, N. M. Grand and D. D. Peters of Dallas.

A committee was appointed by the chair to confer with the Dallas Commercial Club and try to devise means whereby a cannery may be obtained at Dallas.

A committee was also appointed to work out a uniform scale of wages to be paid in the care of and picking of fruit.

The question raised as to what kind of apples were best adapted to the Willamette Valley created a great deal of spirited discussion by those in attendance.

#### Lecture at High School.

The first in the series of University Extension lectures to be given by prominent members of the University of Oregon will be given at the High School auditorium on Thursday evening at 8.15.

Professor Sweetser will lecture on "Our Native Oregon Trees and Shrubs", illustrated by lantern slides. The admission is free and the public cordially invited.

These lectures are given under the auspices of the Women's Club together with the schools and college.

Mr. Tony Larson who has been visiting his parents in Sweden, returned to his home in Dallas last week.

#### Saturday Night's Fire.

Last Saturday about 7.30 p. m., the fire alarm whistle at the mill gave its shrill notes of warning that fire was raging, and citizens from all quarters directed by the glowing light hastened to the scene. It proved to be the home of Mr. Will Wright, a laborer, who with his wife, was down town unaware that their home was in flames.

The fire had gained such a headway before it was discovered that the fire department on its arrival directed their attention towards saving the adjoining property which they succeeded in doing. The fire ladies done good work, and considering the distance from headquarters, made a good run. The house and contents were a total loss. Mr. Wright fortunately had some insurance carried in a company represented by C. L. Priehard.

The residence was owned by Mrs. Powell and was insured for \$50,000 by a company represented by A. V. R. Snyder.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Conley who live adjoining was slightly damaged, for awhile it seemed that it would be in flames and neighbors carried out of the house all of the household furniture and other belongings, to be on the safe side, it seemed like all of Dallas must have been present at the fire so large was the crowd.

#### Mountain View School Celebrates.

The Mountain View School patrons met Friday, January 8th and held an all day Rally in celebration of the event of their becoming a standardized school.

Miss Catherine Stewart and Miss Ella Robinson are the teachers and A. B. Southwick, John Ferguson and Glen Adams, director with H. M. Webb as Clerk.

An excellent program was rendered by the children, addresses were made on topics of interest in the school as well as general discussion.

A beautiful basket dinner was served, which was pronounced the best yet. The last one is always the best. Mr. Welles, Assistant State School Superintendent, T. W. Brunk, President of the School Officers' Association of Polk County, G. W. Myers of Dallas and County Superintendent Seymour were present and participated in the good time and report a big crowd as well as an entertaining day.

A Parent Teachers' Association was also organized the same day with the following officers:—Miss Taylor, President; Mrs. Adams, Vice-President, and Miss Stewart, Secretary.

#### Births.

Dr. McCallon reported the following new arrivals in Polk County.

A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. John Crippen of Lewisville, January 6th, 1914.

A son to Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Agos of Perrydale, January 8th, 1914.

#### Fair Meeting.

A meeting of the Directors of the Polk County Fair Association will be held at the court house next Saturday afternoon. Business of importance will come before them that needs the attendance of all of its members.

## ELECTION LAW MORE SIMPLE

### ALL MUST REGISTER AGAIN

#### Changes by the Last Legislation Which Are Important to All.

Among the acts of the last Legislature was a series of bills changing the election laws of the state of Oregon in many important particulars.

#### Important Changes Made in Election Laws.

Polls to remain open until 8 p. m.—one hour longer than heretofore.

Primary elections to be held on third Friday in May biennially, instead of April in Presidential years and September in "off" years.

All candidates for Circuit Judge, District Attorney and Congress in districts embracing only one county, to file petitions with Secretary of State, the same as candidates for district officers embracing more than one county.

All candidates for Legislature to file petitions with Secretary of State, as Joint, Senators and Representatives have heretofore done.

Progressives to participate in primary elections on equal terms with Democrats and Republicans.

National Committeemen to be elected by popular party vote in 1914 and every four years thereafter.

All nominating petitions to be filed before a uniform date, regardless of space in state pamphlet.

More time allowed for preparing and printing official ballots and pamphlets.

Simplified ballot titles for initiative and referendum measures.

Saving in cost of printing and mailing initiative and referendum pamphlets.

There were, in all, 15 measures pertaining to elections, and the result of their enactment is that Oregon has a simple and more efficient set of laws on this subject.

#### Primary Election Shifted.

Among the important changes made are the following:—The primary nominating election heretofore held alternately in April and September has been shifted to the third Friday in May biennially; the polls are to open at 8 a. m., and close at 8 p. m.—one hour later than heretofore; all candidates for district offices in districts embracing one county only, and all candidates for the Legislature must hereafter file their petitions with the Secretary of State; the Progressive party is recognized as a regular political party within the meaning of the direct primary law; National committeemen are to be elected by popular vote in their respective parties; more time is allowed the Secretary of State and other election officials for the preparation of official ballots and the distribution of campaign pamphlets; initiative and referendum measures will hereafter have simplified ballot titles and pamphlets will be printed in smaller type.

These amendments to the election laws are fully set forth in the Session Laws of Oregon for 1913, but the following is a synopsis of the more important changes:

Chapter 288 changes the time of the biennial state election from the first Monday in June to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in accordance with the amendment to section 146 of article 11 of the Constitution of Oregon, made by the people on June 1, 1908. This chapter also enumerates the state, district and county officers to be elected, among these being a United States Senator.

#### Voters to Elect Senators.

The mention of the United States Senatorship in this chapter contemplated the adoption of the 17th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for direct election of Senators by the people, so further legislation on this subject will not be necessary in the state of Oregon.

This chapter, among other things, provides for keeping the polls open until 8 p. m. instead of 7 p. m. as heretofore, in order to give working men, clerks and others plenty of time to vote. Heretofore, many laborers who reside in the suburbs have not been able to reach their polling places in time to vote.

Chapter 189 designates those candidates for public office who shall file their declarations and petitions with the Secretary of State and those who shall file with the County Clerk. Heretofore much confusion has existed in judicial, Congressional and Prosecuting Attorney districts embracing only one county, and candidates have been at a loss to know whether to file their petitions with the Secretary of

State or County Clerks. The chapter removes all doubt by providing that only candidates for county offices such as Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor, and so forth shall file with the County Clerk, and that all aspirants for state and district offices, including candidates for the Legislature, shall file with the Secretary of State.

#### Important Election Dates for 1914

January 5. Opening of registration books by County Clerks.

April 10. Last day upon which nominating petitions may be filed with Secretary of State.

April 15. Last day upon which nominating petitions may be filed with County Clerks.

May 1. Closing of registration books by County Clerks until after primary election.

May 15. Primary nominating election for Democratic, Progressive and Republican parties.

July 2. Last day upon which initiative petitions may be filed with Secretary of State.

November 3. General election day. Voters This Year Must Register Anew.

In view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court nullifying the Gill permanent registration law, enacted at the last session of the Legislature, it will be necessary for all who desire to vote in the primary and general elections of this year to re-register under the provisions of the law of 1905, which governed registrations before the Gill law was enacted, and which is again in full force and effect. All registrations of any character whatever, made prior to January 1, 1914 are null and void as far as this year's elections are concerned. Registration books are now open at the various county court houses throughout the state and voters who expect to participate in the primary election on May 15 must register before May 1.

There are numerous minor changes and correcting in the election laws and many sections of "dead" matter have been repealed. Those who have made a study of these laws and the amendments by the Legislature are of the opinion that the laws as they exist at present, will be easily understood and applied, and that the duties of County Clerks and election officials generally have been materially lightened.

#### Library Report.

One more year in the life of the Dallas Public Library has just ended, the busiest and most prosperous it has yet known. A year that marks a number of changes, the most important of which is the removal from the small crowded room in the City Hall into the beautiful new Carnegie building.

The building was opened to the public, January 16th, 1913, with a formal opening and reception given by the Women's Club, January 31st.

Since then, there has been a steady increase in the attendance and circulation, as a comparison of the following reports will show.

Total circulation for 1912—8765.  
Number of callers for 1912—16,712.  
Total circulation for 1913—12,098.  
Number of callers for 1913—26,150.

A great many reference books are used in the rooms of which no records can be made. One thousand, two hundred and twenty-five borrowers' cards are in actual use.

There is now in the library 2278 volumes, making a net increase of 191 volumes for the year. Thirty five newspapers and periodicals are currently received.

The library, already the literary center of the town, is also rapidly growing in favor as a social center.

In its well equipped lecture room in the basement, are held all meetings of the Women's Club, chorus practice, lectures, committee meetings, library board meetings, and informal suppers, and parties by the Young Women's Club.

During the summer months one hour each week was given to the children for a story hour. This work was in charge of Miss Nellie Collins.

With the continued loyalty and hearty support of the people of Dallas, an even greater increase of the library is predicted for 1914.

#### Another Standard School.

The Airline School reached the goal and became one of the standard schools of Polk County on January 8th.

The teachers of the school are E. M. Haley, Principal and Miss Mary Whitman, Miss Mary Ewing and Miss Pearl Snedeker, teachers; Directors: J. F. Ulrich, J. T. Weinert and Wm. Shewey, with Percy Hadley, Clerk.

The Airline schools have just added a good supply of laboratory apparatus for the physics and chemistry departments. They are also doing some excellent work in the manual training department.

Under the management of Mr. Haley the Airline schools have made remarkable advancement during the past two years.